

## Why compost?

Food and lawn waste makes up 25% of all waste in landfills. Although these natural materials are biodegradable, they do not break down properly in landfills, which are so densely packed that oxygen isn't readily available. When oxygen is withheld during the decomposition process, the organic matter may emit methane gas, which is 20 times more toxic than carbon dioxide. Each ton of organic matter that is diverted from the landfill can save 1/3 of a ton of greenhouse gases from being emitted into the environment. Plus, composting can provide you with your very own "black gold" for free, allowing you to condition and enrich your soil.

## Set up your bin.

There are many types of containers, but you don't need a container to compost. Containers can help speed the decomposition process by controlling temperature and moisture and keep your compost scraps out of sight. All compost heaps, contained or not, should be approximately 3x3 to really be most effective. A DIY garbage can compost bin is easy and affordable. Purchase a large plastic or rubber trashcan with a secure-fitting lid. Use a drill to bore 5-6 holes each in the lid, the sides, and bottom of the can to provide airflow that will be essential to breaking down the organic materials placed inside it. You can use a small, medium or large size can, depending on your needs and space available.

## Add to your bin:

Now that you have your bin and your tools, it's time to compost! The most important thing is to add the right materials and avoid the wrong ones. Even if all you do is throw your kitchen scraps into your compost bin, you're still doing OK—your scraps will break down eventually, even if you never turn it, water it, aerate it, or "balance" its contents. As a general guide, if it came from a plant, you can compost it.

### What to Compost

- Grass and lawn clippings
- Fruit and vegetable peels, rinds and scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Hay and Straw
- Tea bags
- Eggshells
- Leaves
- Dryer lint
- Garden waste
- Shredded paper
- Wood chips and sawdust (from untreated wood)
- Weeds that have not seeded



### What NOT to Compost

- Large chunks of compostable materials
- Chemically treated wood
- Pet or Human waste
- Pernicious weeds
- Diseased plants
- Meat
- Lime
- Dairy products
- Animal bones
- Fats and oils
- Cooked food
- Peanut butter
- Animal food products
- Glossy paper or Paper with colored ink



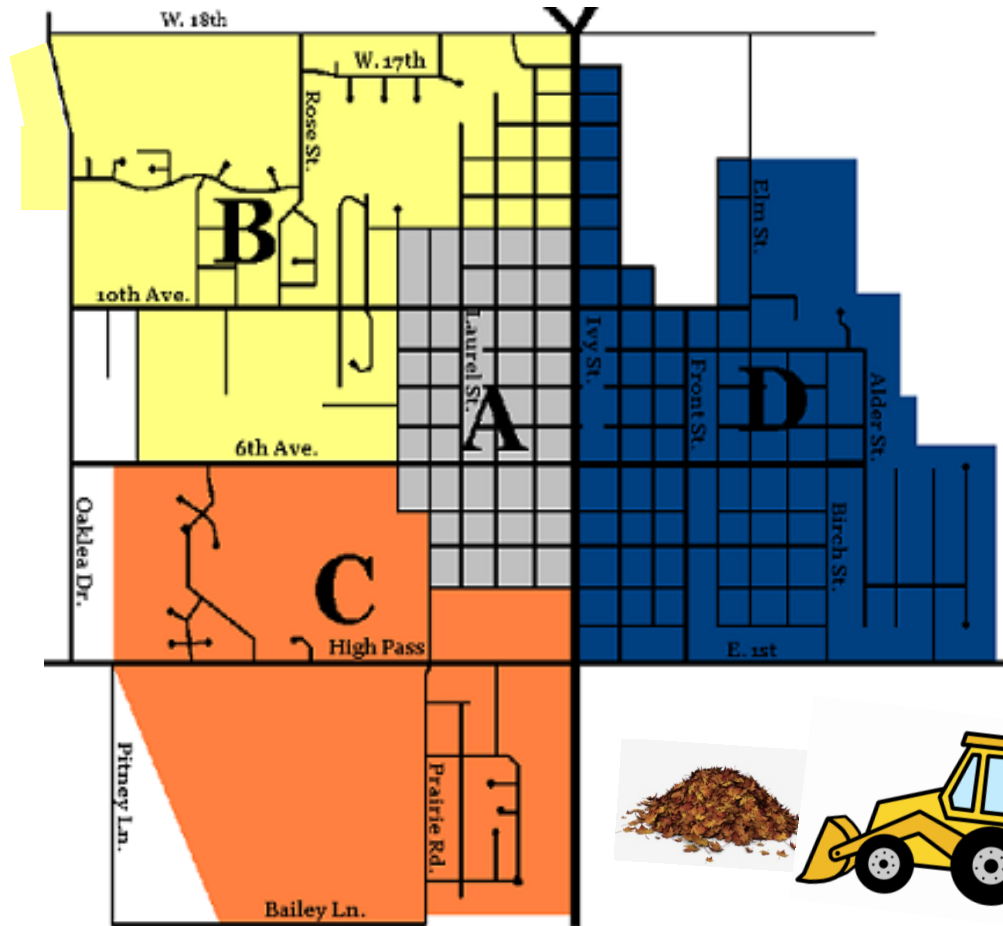
## Now you wait:

If you do nothing from this point, you will probably have finished compost in approximately one year. Most people try to nudge Mother Nature into a speedier delivery by keeping a healthy amount of moisture (water) and air flowing within the pile. Using an aerator or pitchfork to turn your pile, anywhere from once a week to a couple times per month, will help reintroduce oxygen. The more often you turn, the quicker it will break down. Weekly aerating and watering should produce a finished compost heap in several months. Finished compost smells earthy, even sweet, is moist like a wrung out sponge, and is dark like coffee grounds. Use this material in your garden, planters, and as mulch.

# Compost.

# Junction City Public Works

## 2016 Leaf Collection Schedule



### Preparing the leaves is simple!

- Consider using leaves as mulch for gardens and flower beds.
- Consider signing up for curb side yard debris service by contacting the Public Works Department.
- Place leftover leaves in the street for the City to collect. Leaves must be at least ONE FOOT away from the curb.
- If you see crews working in your neighborhood easily, don't worry! They will return during your scheduled week.
- **PLEASE DO NOT BAG LEAVES.**

### Pick up schedule by Zone:

**A:** (W. 3rd—W 12th, Ivy-Nyssa)

**Oct. 31st - Nov.4th**

**B:** (Oaklea Middle School Area and  
The Reserve)

**Nov. 7th— 10th**

**C:** (Bailey Park, SW Laurel, Prairie  
Mdws, Raintree Mdws)

Please contact Public Works at (541) 998-3125 with any questions.